



CASTLEMAINE STEINER SCHOOL
& KINDERGARTEN

EARLY CHILDHOOD



WELCOME **By Hayley Bridgwood, Educational Leader**

The first seven years are critical in determining the future wellbeing of children. This is the time when the foundations are laid for later learning and healthy development, including life-long physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual growth. We believe an atmosphere of loving warmth and guidance provides the optimal environment for healthy development and our Educators play a vital role in modelling and scaffolding a child's natural urge to explore and experiment through daily seasonal rhythms and routines.

Young children are given time to play, enjoy childhood and build strong foundational social-emotional competencies and play-based emergent numeracy and literary skills before formal academic learning begins in Class 1.

What's Inside

Overview- 3

Kindergarten - 4

Prep - 4

Enrolments - 8

Established in 1988, our current campus was built in 1995 on Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

Buildings and classrooms are sustainably designed, featuring solar energy, rammed earth and natural materials. All on 18 acres of beautiful bushland, approximately 5kms from the township of Castlemaine.



CSSK has classes from Kindergarten to Year 8, with a progressional pathway option into the Steiner Stream at the Castlemaine Secondary College.

EARLY CHILDHOOD IN STEINER EDUCATION



The early childhood years (0-7) are characterised by children actively learning through imitation of adults and their own creative experience. At CSSK the child's imagination and sense of wonder is fostered through stories, seasonal songs, creative play, engagement with nature and involvement in everyday activity. A Steiner Early Childhood Centre is a warm, nurturing environment filled with beautiful play materials and outdoor spaces with animals and gardens to care for. The young child learns through play and structured activities to cook, paint, garden, sew, use tools, share and problem solve.

Children explore their environment, learning important cooperative skills to enhance their social and emotional well-being, foster positive self esteem and develop gross and fine motor skills. Foundational pre-literacy and numeracy skills are grounded in the early years through rich oral and practical learning experiences to prepare adequately for more formal learning.

*“Receive the children in reverence, educate them with love,
and send them forth in freedom.”
-Rudolph Steiner*

KINDERGARTEN



"Kindergarten is a wonderful year of growth for children, where they experience their first formal educational setting. They are introduced to the delights of learning how to look after themselves, each other and our Kindergarten. It is a rich and vibrant time in a child's learning and in their play experiences. As Educators, we are always delighted and warmed by the children's capacity to experience joy and wonder throughout their Kindergarten day."

Tobie Coggle, Kindergarten Teacher

OVERVIEW

The openness of the child, their reverence and their ability to absorb every nuance of what they experience, allows deep learning to occur. Through imitation they learn authentic home & garden skills, develop artistic & musical capacities. A growing consciousness of the world emerges through the teacher's stories and Kindergarten work. They also experience as part of their education, the gesture, attitude and atmosphere created by the Teacher. As with the rest of the academic programing across our school, we meet and adhere to the national curriculum standards of the DET and the National Early Years Framework.

Castlemaine Steiner School and Kindergarten offers a two year Kinder program:

- Silver Banksia - the year the child turns four
- Golden Wattle - the year the child turns five

Our intake year is based on the calendar year. All children born between 1st January and 31st of December will comprise a group i.e. children born in 2019 are part of the 2023 Silver Banksia group and children born in 2018 are part of the 2023 Golden Wattle group.

Both of our Programs are facilitated by two Educators, the Kindergarten Teacher and an Assistant. Our ratios are generous and distinguish our Program from many others.

Each year our Silver Banksia group roll over to become our Golden Wattle group, allowing a few places available for entry at Golden Wattle level.



PREP

Overview

"Each year I am amazed by the imagination of the children and their ability to immerse themselves so completely in their Play.

I love to see their satisfaction as they master new skills, to see the care and respect they develop for each other, the bonds of friendship that grow and to share in their joy and wonder for the world."



Moya Maguire, Prep Teacher

OVERVIEW



Enrolment into Castlemaine Steiner School and Kindergarten occurs in two stages being Kindergarten and Prep level.

Our Prep program provides a gentle introduction to formal academic learning which assists with young children's emotional wellbeing as they adjust to being "big" school children.

We have a full time Prep Teacher, and a full time Class Assistant for all Prep groups. This extra set of hands & eyes helps at times of transition between activities, meal and rest times, as well as being another warm and known face for your child. Morning tea is lovingly provided each day and looked forward to.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO OUR SCHOOL

How to Enrol

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

All entries to the school begin with an Expression of Interest Form and payment of a non-refundable \$100 Application Fee. This commences the enrolment process or a registration on a waitlist. An EOI at Kindergarten level will automatically register a place on the waitlist for Prep unless otherwise indicated.

INTERVIEWS / ENROLMENT PROCESS

Early Childhood Offers begin each year in Term 2 of the preceding year to commencement. The enrolment process starts with an interview with the Educational Leader. At the completion of the interview, a formal Offer will be made to the family and enrolment paperwork provided. Acceptance of an Offer of Place is confirmed by the receipt of a fully completed Enrolment form, all relevant supporting documentation and payment of the Entry Bond.

A transition session with the Early Childhood Educator will take place later in the year. If we are unable to offer your family a place, your details will remain on the waitlist.

IMMUNISATION

As per the Dept of Health "No jab, no play" legislation, all children enrolled to attend Kindergarten must be immunised. Families provide Medicare Online Immunisation Status Certificates when commencing the enrolment process, and further updated copies as the child completes the full vaccination schedule.

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-children/no-jab-no-play>

TUITION FEES

All current fee information for CSSK Programs is available on our website: www.cssk.vic.edu.au/enrolment/tuition-fees

CONCESSION CARD HOLDER DISCOUNTS

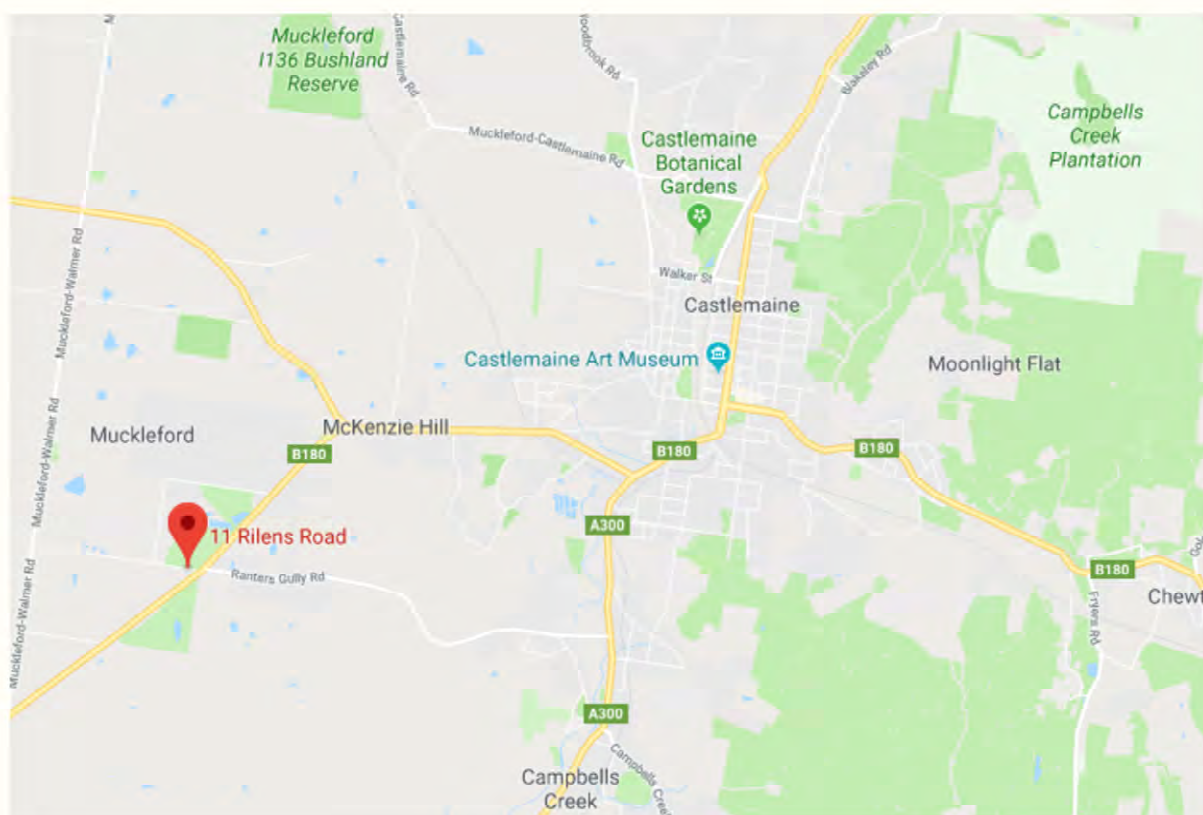
Eligible Concession Card Holders are able to access a 25% discount on Tuition fees for the school, from Prep to Class 8. Kindergarten has a separate subsidy available, and further details will be provided to Kinder applicants.

If you are currently considering enrolment at CSSK, please contact our Enrolments Officer on either 5479 2000 or enquiries@cssk.vic.edu.au for further details.

WHERE TO FIND US

OUR LOCATION

We are located a short drive from the township of Castlemaine at;
11 Rilens Rd, Muckleford VIC 3451.
Phone - 5479 2000 Web - www.cssk.vic.edu.au



SCHOOL TOURS

We host tours regularly throughout each term. The tours are a fantastic way to see our school, meet some of our key staff and ask questions you may have of CSSK and/or Steiner Education. Tour dates for the year are listed on our website <https://www.cssk.vic.edu.au/enrolment/school-tours/> and also by appointment during term time should you be unable to attend on one of the scheduled dates.

OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

There is much information on our website such as a Virtual Tour, Enrolment process information, Parent Information and School Policies. Head to <https://www.cssk.vic.edu.au/> there you will find information on School Open Days & Events and insight into the daily life of our classrooms. You can also follow us on social media @castlemainesteinerschool.



CASTLEMAINE STEINER SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

11 Rilens Rd
Muckleford
Victoria 3451

(03) 5479 2000

enquiries@cssk.vic.edu.au